

## **Preliminary Version- Pending Commission Approval**

### **Minutes of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Meeting, 5 April, 2007**

**Dr. Mecca called the meeting of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission to order. Present were Commissioners: Dr. Mecca, Dr. Kadak, Dr. Allen, and Dr. Nassersharif and staff Dr. Terry Tehan, Hank Bicehouse, Jeff Davis, and Mike Middleton. Dr. Gromet arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.**

#### **1. Minutes of the 30 January, 2007 RIAEC Meeting.**

**Dr. Nassersharif made a motion to accept the amended minutes (copy attached). Dr. Allen seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were reviewed. A Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously. See Enclosure 1**

**2. Reactor Operator Qualification Progress Report. Mike Middleton made a report on qualification status. Both exams are scheduled for April 2007. See Enclosure 2**

**3. Operating Budget/ Capital Budget/grants. Dr. Tehan presented a written report on the budget. A discussion was held on use of funds. Dr. Nassersharif moved to require a list of major staff projects with milestones and completion dates be developed Dr. Gromet seconded. Motion passed unanimously. See enclosure 3**

**4. NRC Inspection/ NRSC Meeting Minutes- inspection date is April 23, 2007 See Enclosure 2**

**5. Emergency Plan Update. A marked up copy is ready for the NRC inspection in April.**

**6. Facility Utilization initiatives. Dr. Mecca recommended that the staff research the possibilities of providing emergency radiological services. Jeff Davis discussed his marketing initiatives.**

**7. personnel.-executive session**

**8. Old Business**

**a. The next meeting of the RIAEC will be at 8:00, Tuesday 24 July, 2007 at the R.I. Nuclear Science Center.**

## **Enclosure 1- approved minutes**

### **Minutes of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Meeting, 30 January, 2007**

**Dr. Mecca called the meeting of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission to order. Present were Commissioners: Dr. Stephen Mecca, Dr. Andrew Kadak, , and Dr. Alfred Allen and staff Dr. Terry Tehan, Hank Bicehouse , Jeff Davis and Mike Middleton. Dr. Gromet and Dr. Nassersharif arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.**

#### **1. Minutes of the 6 November, 2006 RIAEC Meeting.**

**Dr. Kadak made a motion to accept the amended minutes (copy attached). Dr. Allen seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were reviewed. A Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously. See Enclosure 1**

**2. Reactor Operator Qualification Progress Report. Mike Middleton made a report on qualification status. Both exams are scheduled for next spring. See Enclosure 2**

**3. Operating Budget/ Capital Budget/grants. Dr. Tehan presented a written report on the budget. A discussion was held on use of funds. The Commission reinforced the need to ensure the state funds were**

adequate for normal operation and maintenance activities and that the federal funds were not being used to cover such items. A ten year graph will be developed showing historical funding. See enclosure 3

4. NRC Inspection/ NRSC Meeting Minutes- New inspection date is April 23 It has been moved back 2 weeks. See Enclosure 2

5. Emergency Plan Update. A discussion was held on schedule slippage and the revised plan to update the plan. It was agreed that the marked up draft will be available for the NRC inspector in April.

6. July Emergency Drill- Jeff Davis submitted a written report for the last meeting. The new emergency plan should be used for the next drill.

7. Mike Middleton discussed new training initiatives which include using Doug Cullen to develop a commercial NAA capability. Mike is working with Canberra to develop a software program to support this project.

#### **8. Facility Utilization Initiatives**

a .Dr. Leith gave a short presentation on his cancer research projects

b. Dr. Tehan discussed RIEDC support

**c. Mike Middleton discussed ongoing projects.**

**d. Jeff Davis discussed the directed mailing project (see enclosure 4)**

## **9. Old Business**

**a. The next meeting of the RIAEC will be at 8:30, Thursday 5 April, 2005 at the R.I. Nuclear Science Center.**

## **10. New Business**

**a. An executive session was held**

**b. Dr.Gromet made a motion and Dr.Allen seconded a motion to adjourn which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned.**

## **Enclosure 1- approved minutes**

### **Minutes of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Meeting, 6 November, 2006**

**Dr. Mecca called the meeting of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission to order at 8:00 AM. Present were Commissioners: Dr. Stephen Mecca, Dr. Andrew Kadak, , and Dr. Bahram Nassersharif and staff Dr. Terry Tehan, Hank Bicehouse , Jeff Davis and Mike Middleton. Dr. Gromet arrived at 8:09 AM.**

#### **1. Minutes of the 12 July 2006 RIAEC Meeting.**

**Dr. Kadak made a motion to accept the amended minutes (copy attached). Dr. Nassersharif seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were reviewed. A Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.**

**2. Reactor Operator Qualification Progress Report. Mike Middleton made a report on qualification status. Both exams are scheduled for next spring. The Commission was assured that there were adequate licenses for operation for the current operating schedule. Should an increase in reactor use occur, the number of licensed operators may be insufficient.**

**3. Operating Budget/ Capital Budget/grants. Dr. Tehan presented a**

written report on the budget. A discussion was held on use of funds. The Commission reinforced the need to ensure the state funds were adequate for normal operation and maintenance activities and that the federal funds were not being used to cover such items since they are restricted to capital improvements.

4. Mike Middleton submitted a written report on the recent NRC inspection and NRSC meeting. (copies attached). A discussion was held concerning the gasket replacement and other maintenance.

5. Search for new NRSC member with nuclear engineering experience. Linus Kelly was recommended by the NRSC for appointment to the NRSC based on his nuclear engineering education and experience. Dr. Gromet moved to approve the appointment. Dr. Kadak seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Jeff Davis submitted a written report on the July Emergency Drill (copy attached). A discussion was held on the drill and emergency plan. RINSC committed to completing revisions to the emergency plan by the end of the year.

7. Mike Middleton discussed new training initiatives. It was suggested that Mike contact MIT and Lowell university reactor operators since they have formal training programs and curricula that might be useful for training RI reactor operators.

**8. Facility Utilization.** Dr. Tehan reported on the progress of Dr. Otts' filter project and the RIEDC Grant. He also discussed Dr. Leith's new initiatives. Mike Middleton reported on neutron scattering and other research upgrades. The general suggestion by the Commission is that these researchers link with local university students to conduct and carry on this type of research in the future.

## **9. Old Business**

**An extensive discussion took place on ways to increase reactor utilization:**

**M. Middleton discussed the requirement to report reactor utilization to the state of RI each year and last year's number was around 30%.**

**A recommendation was made to create a draft of a short article on NAA to be submitted to Bahram Nassersharif at URI. The article will be published in the URI Engineering Magazine. M. Middleton, H. Bicehouse and Jeff Davis will draft this article.**

**A recommendation was made to modify the article on NAA and submit to Stephen Mecca at PC. This article will be published in the Spectrum at PC. M. Middleton, H. Bicehouse and Jeff Davis will modify the URI article for use at PC.**



**T. Tehan discussed the marginal impact that the mass mailing of an introductory letter and brochure had on increasing utilization of the reactor and that RINSC is already working with RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) to find possible collaborations with RI industry.**

**T. Tehan discussed the work he is doing with Dr. Leith in the area of Cancer Research. He stated that Dr. Leith is collaborating with Paul Willard of Brown University and Dr. Vittenberger of URI in applying for the RIEDC STAC grant, and their efforts to collaborate with the Albany Medical Center and companies associated with the Albany Medical Center on a collaborative effort toward producing a new radio-nuclide based product.**

**Jeff Davis submitted a comprehensive document on the possible uses of NAA. The document was well received. Jeff Davis will contact recipients of the directed mailing letter and brochure sent to researchers through New England as a follow-up and present the contents of this document.**

**Stephen Mecca suggested that invitations for visits and briefings be sent to targeted commercial industries and university faculty to RINSC in Rhode Island and Connecticut.. Stephen Mecca suggested the possibility of having RIEDC be asked to support RINSC's effort to increase reactor utilization.**

Andrew Kadak suggested that consideration should also be given to increase the educational role of the RINSC. Items that should be reviewed are taking some of the unused lab space and converting it into a classroom for lectures. In addition, distance learning capabilities should be explored with lectures and demonstrations given at the RINSC and televised over the internet to class rooms state wide

M. Middleton described RINSC's present support of two at URI for projects at RINSC. One student's project is to recalibrate the refurbished goniometer. The other student's project is to complete phase one of a computer automation of the reactor control system.

Stephen Mecca suggested extending exploratory "grants" to university faculty for projects at RINSC. T. Tehan stated that RINSC could supply some money to faculty based on the completion of projects that benefit RINSC and help to increase reactor utilization. M. Middleton stated that in addition to exploratory grants, RINSC would be able to support projects through the purchase of needed equipment. RINSC purchased a Digital Spectrum Analyzer and used Reactor Sharing funds for staff assistance in support of the UNH atmospheric sampling project.

The meeting schedule was discussed and it was decided that the next meeting would be at 8:300 A.M. on jan 30 , 2007 at the R.I. Nuclear Science Center.

## **10. New Business**

## **11. Adjournment**

**Dr.Gromet made a motion and Dr. Nassersharif seconded a motion to adjourn which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.**

## **Enclosure 2- Middleton update**

### **Personnel Qualification:**

**The required forms for Maggie Damato and Bruce McGregor have been completed**

**and sent to the NRC! License Exams are scheduled for April 23rd. Training**

**twice a week continues! The entire staff has joined in helping them prepare**

**for the exam.**

**Operator requal was completed this week for Mike Middleton and Bruce**

**McGregor by J. Davis! T. Tehan will not requal if B. McGregor receives his**

**SRO license.**

### **NRC Inspection/NRSC Meeting Minutes:**

**NRC inspection is scheduled for the week of April 23rd. The latest**

## **NRSC**

meeting minutes are attached. These minutes had already been sent to all the commissioners!

### **Emergency Plan:**

Emergency Plan was presented to the NRSC full committee and approved pending review by NRC Inspector. The Emergency Plan Revision 2 and the supporting justification documentation have been sent to the NRC for review. J. Davis has a three month window to update the 'Emergency Plan Implementing Procedures'.

### **Facility Utilization Initiatives:**

Tony Nunes and his student were here to review the work on the Goniometer, We are making an effort to close up the unit and start taking some initial measurements. M. Middleton is working with T. Nunes to determine how this work can be used to apply for future GNEP grants opportunities. M.

**Middleton plans to attend a neutron scattering workshop at Oak Ridge this month.**

**The rod control automation project is moving forward, the final hardware deliverable due today! M. Middleton and B. McGregor are working on the remaining field wiring. CES will supply the software program and help with implementation. Project completion expected by end of May.**

**The project to develop NAA software with Canberra continues. M. Middleton and D. Johnson met with A. Pzsenny from UNH. The NAA software will be based on Alex's work. M. Middleton has developed VB software to automate the collection of data from the Canberra reports to A. Pzsenny's excel spreadsheet. M. Middleton has created a input/output wishlist to be presented to Canberra! No meeting is scheduled with Canberra todate.**

**Enclosure 3- Budget info  
To All**

**As of today, we have \$3,324 left in the general fund. Since most**

recurring items such as gases, water ,salaries& benefits are already encumbered, we may last through the end of the month before we have to go to the governor for supplemental funding. We have lasted this long by using the federal accounts for many of the reactor related items such as the electronics/ electrical upgrade in progress. I talked to our Senate Budget Analyst and she does not think it will be hard to get a small supplemental to finish the year.

Next years budget, which starts July 1, 2007, is still in a state of flux. We had a good meeting with House Finance and Steve made a strong case for increasing our operating budget. The Governor's proposed personnel reductions are not reflected in the House budget which restores the FTE cut and other funding while providing our capital budget with \$50,000 for the parking lot. The legislature usually waits until the end of June to vote the final budget.

Federal grants are in a state of flux. All the old categories are out. The new NERI grant announcement is just out. I sent Mike to the meeting on it in D.C. and he is going to another one in April. He can fill you in on our progress at the meeting. He is on family sick leave until Thursday. We do have \$85,000 in funding for the last year of INIE and I am going to request it in May so it goes into the state account after July 1 or we will experience the usual problem of Accounts and Controls not rolling the money over for six months. We are in good shape on INIE having only spent around \$10,000 so far this year.

**The main issue on the budget is how we deal with the FY2008 budget which has not been passed. I recommend waiting until we see the final project before submitting a supplemental for next year.-Terry**